

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original): An improved paper fastening arrangement for use with a fastener having a base including two ends each having a leg extended therefrom, the leg foldable relative to the base, a sheath comprising:

an extension shaped to slideably engage one of the legs, the extension including an opening that defines a cavity to receive the leg, wherein the extension at least partially covers the leg and is operative to engage through sheet materials; and

at least one guide tab depending from the extension downward from the opening, the guide tab being foldable.

2. (original): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the guide tab comprises a flange bent relative to the guide tab to form a recess between the flange and the guide tab, whereby the recess receives the leg of the base.

3. (original): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 2, wherein the flange secures the sheath and the leg.

4. (currently amended): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the sheath includes a solid portion closing the opening either at a top of the sheath or at a distance below a the top of the sheath.

5. (original): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising a retainer to slideably engage with the sheath, for securing the sheath and the leg.

6. (original): The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising a retaining means for securing the sheath and the leg.

7. (original): A paper fastener comprising:
a base including two ends each having a leg extended therefrom, the legs foldable relative to the base;

a sheath for slidably engaging one of the legs, the sheath comprising an open bottom forming a cavity to receive the leg, wherein the sheath at least partially covers the leg and is operative to engage through sheet materials; and

the sheath comprising at least one guide tab extending from the open bottom and foldable therefrom.

8. (original): The paper fastener as in claim 7 wherein the guide tab comprises a flange bent relative to the guide tab to form a recess between the flange and the guide tab, whereby the recess is configured to receive the leg.

9. (original): The paper fastener as in claim 8 wherein the flange secures the sheath and the leg.

10. (currently amended): The paper fastener as in claim 7 wherein the sheath includes a solid portion closing the ~~open bottom at a distance below a top of the sheath cavity,~~ the solid portion located either at an end of the sheath or proximate the end of the sheath.

11. (original): The paper fastener as in claim 7 further comprising a retainer to slidably engage with the sheath, for securing the sheath and the leg.

12. (original): The paper fastener as in claim 7 further comprising a retaining means for securing the sheath and the leg.

13. (currently amended): The paper fastener as in claim 11 wherein said retainer engages the guide tab when the guide tab is ~~positioned upright and~~ parallel with the leg, and the retainer secures the guide tab and the leg.

14. (original): The paper fastener as in claim 7 wherein the sheath includes at least a second guide tab extending from the open bottom and foldable therefrom.

15. (new) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 2 wherein the flange is folded toward the guide tab to form a rounded side edge thereof.

16. (new) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 2 wherein the flange extends across the guide tab to an opposite edge of the guide tab from which it depends.

17. (new) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising a compressor having opposing top and bottom surfaces and two holes respectively formed through two end portions of the compressor, said compressor operable to engage the sheath by receiving at least a portion of the extension in one of the two holes.

18. (new) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 further comprising at least a second guide tab depending from the extension downward from the opening, the second guide tab being foldable.

19. (new) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the cavity is configured to receive the entire length of the leg.

20. (new) The paper fastening arrangement as in claim 1 wherein the sheath, the extension and the guide tab are integrally formed.